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and exclusive method for all nonbargaining unit employees to challenge a rating of record. A payout determination will not be subject to the reconsideration process.

- (h) A bargaining unit employee may choose a negotiated grievance procedure or the administrative reconsideration process established under paragraph (g) of this section, but not both, to challenge his or her rating of record. An employee who chooses the administrative reconsideration process may not revert to a negotiated grievance procedure. A payout determination will not be subject to the negotiated grievance procedure. Any individual or panel reviewing a rating of record under a negotiated grievance procedure may not conduct an independent evaluation of the employee's performance, determine the appropriate share payout, or otherwise substitute his or her judgment for that of the rating official.
- (i) A supervisor or other rating official may prepare an additional performance appraisal for the purposes specified in the applicable performance management system (e.g., transfers and details) at any time after the completion of the minimum period. Such an appraisal is not a rating of record.
- (j) Implementing issuances will establish policies and procedures for crediting performance in a reduction in force in accordance with subpart F of this part (or other appropriate workforce shaping procedures for those not covered by subpart F of this part, such as National Guard Technicians under 32 U.S.C. 709).

Subpart E—Staffing and Employment

GENERAL

§ 9901.501 Purpose.

- (a) This subpart sets forth policies and procedures for the establishment of qualification requirements; recruitment for, and appointment to, positions; and assignment, reassignment, detail, transfer, or promotion of employees, consistent with 5 U.S.C. 9902(a) and (k).
- (b) The Secretary will comply with merit principles set forth in 5 U.S.C.

2301 and with 5 U.S.C. 2302 (dealing with prohibited personnel practices).

(c) The Secretary will adhere to veterans' preference principles set forth in 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(11), consistent with 5 U.S.C. 9902(a) and (k).

§ 9901.502 Scope of authority.

When a specified category of employees, applicants, and positions is covered by the system established under this subpart, the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 3301, 3302, 3304, 3317(a), 3318 and 3319 (except with respect to veterans' preference), 3321, 3324, 3325, 3327, 3330, 3341, and 5112(a) are modified and replaced with respect to that category, except as otherwise specified in this subpart. In accordance with §9901.105, the Secretary will prescribe implementing issuances to carry out the provisions of this subpart.

§ 9901.503 Coverage.

- (a) This subpart applies to eligible DoD employees and positions in the categories listed in paragraph (b) of this section, subject to a determination by the Secretary under §9901.102(b).
- (b) The following employees and positions in DoD organizational and functional units are eligible for coverage under this subpart:
- (1) Employees and positions who would otherwise be covered by 5 U.S.C. chapters 31 and 33 (excluding members of the Senior Executive Service); and
- (2) Such others designated by the Secretary as DoD may be authorized to include under 5 U.S.C. 9902.

§ 9901.504 Definitions.

In this subpart—

Career employee means an individual appointed without time limit to a competitive or excepted service position in the Federal career service.

Initial probationary period has the meaning given that term in §9901.103.

In-service probationary period has the meaning given that term in §9901.103.

Promotion has the meaning given that term in §9901.103.

Reassignment has the meaning given that term in §9901.103.

Reduction in band has the meaning given that term in §9901.103.

Temporary employee means an individual not on a career appointment